

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 04327 081346Z
ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, DR
SUBJECT: DRAFT TOAST FOR SECRETARY AT LUNCH HOSTED BY PRESIDENT
GUZMAN

REF: STATE 187740

FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT FOR THE SECRETARY'S TOAST
AT AUGUST 16 LUNCHEON WITH PRESIDENT GUZMAN:

1. MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:
2. IT IS A GREAT HONOR AND A REAL PLEASURE TO BE HERE
WITH YOU, IN THIS AGREEABLE AMBIENTE AND TO HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY SO SOON AFTER YOUR INAUGURATION TO EXCHANGE
THOUGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS WITH YOU. I APPRECIATE VERY
MUCH YOUR GRACIOUSNESS IN EXTENDING THIS INVITATION TO
ME AND MY COLLEAGUES. MY PRESENCE HERE IN REPRESENTATION
OF PRESIDENT CARTER REFLECTS MY GOVERNMENT'S INTENSE
INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL PROCESS
IN YOUR COUNTRY AND OUR SATISFACTION THAT IT WAS CONCLUDED
SO SUCCESSFULLY. WHEN I THINK BACK TO MY LAST VISIT TO
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 13 YEARS AGO, THE PROGRESS TOWARD
INSTITUTIONALIZING DEMOCRACY IN THIS COUNTRY BECOMES EVEN
MORE IMPRESSIVE.

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3. THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR IN WHICH THE PRINCIPLE OF
RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN SEVERELY TESTED IN
LATIN AMERICA. THE DOMINICAN ELECTION IS ONE OF THE
MOST SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF THAT TESTING. THE CIVILITY,
MODERATION AND COMMITMENT SHOWN BY THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE
DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS MAKE CLEAR THAT DEMOCRACY

IN THIS COUNTRY IS ON A SOUND FOOTING. AND I KNOW, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT YOU SHARE PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCERN FOR PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL MUST BE A GRADUAL, LONG-RANGE PROCESS. EACH COUNTRY OBVIOUSLY HAS TO MOVE AT A DIFFERENT PACE. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE CONTINUE TO MOVE AHEAD.

4. PLEASE BE ASSURED, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE WILL CONTINUE OUR SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN YOUR COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, AND COLLABORATE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY WITH YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS TO THAT END. OUR DEDICATION TO COMMON PRINCIPLES - HUMAN DIGNITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, THE RIGHT OF NATIONS TO LIVE IN SECURITY AND DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY - WILL FACILITATE THAT COLLABORATION.

5. I CONGRATULATE AND SALUTE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, ON ASSUMING THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR COUNTRY. I LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION OF THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AND I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A TOAST TO YOUR HEALTH, YOUR PERSONAL GOOD FORTUNE AND YOUR SUCCESS IN FURTHERING THE WELL-BEING OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE.
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